

**TOWN OF FOREST HEIGHTS**  
**Cree Drive Drainage Improvements/Road Repair Project Resident Informational Meeting**  
**Wednesday, December 29, 2021**  
**7:00 PM**  
**Meeting Minutes**  
**Virtual Meeting**

**Mayor's Opening Remarks:** Mayor Washington thanked everyone for attending the meeting. He reminded everyone that it is an informational meeting and not a legislative session. He recognized CW Noble, CW Hines, CW Brownson, CM Lilly, and CM Atkinson as being in attendance. He welcomed Mr. El-Awar and Mr. Torres from FES, and Mr. Vaughn, Town Public Director.

**Opening Statements:** Mr. El-Awar thanked the town for selecting FES for the project and looked forward to addressing the questions of the residents. He stated that FES has put together programs to improve the stormwater runoff drainage to direct the waterflow into existing inlets. In addition, existing curbs and gutters will be repaired, and aprons will be improved. The project will take an estimated 3-4 months to complete. Residents will be informed about the location to ensure the least amount of inconvenience. They will use signs and flagmen for safety purposes.

**Panel:** Larry Vaughn, Public Works Director, Town of Forest Heights  
Raja S. El-Awar, PE, General Manager, FES Group, LLC  
Freddy Torres, Project Manager, FES Group, LLC

**Public Question and Answer Period:** CW Noble asked FES if there were any inclement weather conditions that would prohibit them from working and what hours they would start working. Mr. El-Awar answered that if there was extended rainfall, they would not be working. They could also not place concrete when temperatures are under 40 for extended periods. They will work between the hours of 7 a.m. and 4 p.m., with some flexibility. Mr. Vaughn reminded FES that the town has a noise ordinance that prohibits work until after 8 a.m. Mr. El-Awar amended the hours.

Mr. Randolph Thomas expressed concerns about parking space during construction, as well as trash placement on the other side of the road. He asked if there was a plan for alternative parking. Mr. Vaughn answered that he did not think everyone would have to park on one side at once. Cars not being used can remain in the driveway. He will speak to the chief of police about alternative parking and to the trash trucks about the changed layout. Mr. El-Awar stated that they would be working in 100–200-foot segments and asked residents to park their cars in their driveways during that time. The roads will not be closed. The only time they will not be able to be in the driveway is when the aprons are being replaced or repaired. Mr. Torres added that a steel plate would be temporarily put in for access. Mr. Thomas expressed concern about losing utilities during construction. Mr. Vaughn stated that utility loss may occur if the lines are marked incorrectly, and that the town would work quickly to fix any such situations if they come up.

Town Attorney Mr. Kevin Best noted that the municipality itself is not subject to the noise ordinance unless expressly stated, and that FES starting work at 7:00 AM would not violate the noise ordinance.

Ms. Connie Rhodes asked how much of people's property would be dug up. Mr. El-Awar answered that they would be digging within the town's right of way (25 feet from the center line of the road). She asked if the work would be done along the entirety of Cree. The underground drainage system runs down the whole side of the roadway; the curb and gutter are on both sides. Any disturbed ground would be restored.

Ms. Katherine sent a question that was read by the town clerk. It asked about the parking situation on 103 Cree Drive. Mr. El-Awar answered that there would be a minimum impact at the bottom of Cree Drive.

Mr. David Acevedo of 5 Cree asked on behalf of his neighbors if the project would include anything behind the houses, such as the runway. Mr. Vaughn answered that it would be addressed in Phase II of the project. Mr. David also answered how the parking would be resolved in the section where the road narrows. Mr. El-Awar answered that the underground system starts at 11 Cree and there may be some curbs and gutters to be replaced. All those being replaced will be marked in orange. Residents should be able to park across the street.

Mr. Martin of 130 Cree Drive asked if they would be going into people's yards. Mr. El-Awar answered that their area is approximately 2-4 feet wide, consisting of the curbs.

Mr. Kevin Best clarified that the right of way is considered 50 feet according to the plat. Within that is the improved portion (curb, road, etc). The grassy area is owned by the town, but the resident whose property it abuts is

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responsible for maintaining it. Mayor Washington restated that any grassy areas disturbed by FES would be put back together.

CW Noble stated that the residents of Cree Drive appreciated the meeting and asked for more notification about the meeting. Mayor Washington also remarked that he had personally sent a notification to all the houses on Cree Drive. And that they work to make sure the residents are well informed. The Town Administrator, Mr. Robinson, noted that they had been very sensitive to the notice for the residents and had been working with FES to ensure the best possible notice.

**Closing remarks:** Mr. El-Awar requested that work begin on Monday morning. Mayor Washington said he would let him know tomorrow.

**Adjourned: 7:42 PM**